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Thursday, January 30 - Wednesday, February 5, 2014 Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 www.oxfordjournal.co.uk

Chancellor announces 'world-leading' science technology investment

OXFORD NETS £67m VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

FOUR business 'incubator' centres in Oxford are set to receive £67million of investment to develop world leading science technology, the Chancellor George Osborne has announced.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

As part of a tour of Begbroke Science Park on Tuesday afternoon, Mr Osborne said that the government would provide £30million of funding, complemented by industry, local authorities and universities.

Over 1,800 permanent jobs are expected as a result of the funding, as well a number of other temporary positions, for example in construction.

Funding will be split between a new 'Innovation Accelerator' at Begbroke, the 'Oxford Bioescalator' in Headington, the expansion of a centre in Culham and the Harwell research centre.

It is hoped that the funding will establish the region as a centre for high-tech production, and is the centre piece of the Oxford City Deal.

Mr Osborne said: "I think the Oxford and Oxfordshire City Deal is a great boost for the city, and it will be a great boost for jobs.

"I'm putting this money in here because it is not just about the future of this area, it is about the entire country to invest in science facilities here in Begbroke, Harwell, Culham and the Bioescalator.

"The £30million is a vote of confidence in Oxford, and from it will flow many thousands of jobs, not just investment in science but also in transport."

Speaking about the funding for Begbroke, University of Oxford vice-chancellor Professor Andrew Hamilton said: "Oxfordshire is already a powerhouse of innovation and wealth creation.

"It was recently ranked amongst the world's top five 'hotspots' for innovation, and it is crucial that we build on the region's unique strengths.

"Creating a regional environment in which entrepreneurial activity can thrive is good for Oxfordshire and good for Oxford University in its mission to continue to attract the best students and researchers from around the world."

Over £4million of government money will go to Begbroke, £11million to Headington, £8million to Culham and £7million to Harwell.

• *George Osborne MP, pictured with Oxford West and Abingdon MP Nicola Blackwood at Begbroke Science Park on Tuesday*

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Man jailed after Kidlington siege

THE man responsible for last year's 'Siege of Morton Avenue' has been jailed for 12 years for a series of serious crimes.

By **James Booker**
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Daniel Rodriquez was involved with a 12-hour armed stand-off with officers in Kidlington on July 9 last year.

However, he was talked out of the house on the day by officers, and no-one was harmed.

He was charged with four firearms offences, which he admitted on October 18, and was given a total of four years in prison.

The 38-year-old was also sentenced to a further eight years behind bars for three counts of rape.

A six-year sentence for sexual assault was also passed, but this will run concurrently with his rape sentence.

Senior police officers paid tribute to the work their staff did to nullify the potential danger of the July stand-off.

Investigating officer Det Sgt Jim Holmes from Banbury Force CID said: "I would like to thank the officers involved in this investigation, those who worked within the early stages of this investigation and then those involved in the later stages.

"It was their tireless work that resulted in the early guilty plea and prevented a lengthy and traumatic trial."

Cherwell and West Oxfordshire LPA commander Supt Colin Paine said: "The incidents of that day in July had a substantial impact on the local community in Kidlington and saw some residents confined to their homes while officers persuaded Rodriquez to hand himself in.

"I would like to praise the community for their helpful response and support for the police on that day, which enabled officers to go about their work and ultimately lead to a successful resolution without any harm to residents.

"Incidents of this nature are not just rare, they are practically unheard of, and I hope that the communities across not just Oxfordshire, but the wider Thames Valley, can take some reassurance from the effective, professional and ultimately successful way this incident was handled."

• *Daniel Rodriquez will serve 12 years for firearms offences, rape and sexual assault*

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New Ashmolean director appointed

THE University of Oxford has appointed a new director for the city's Ashmolean Museum, who will take up the position from October 1.

Dr Alexander Sturgis arrives from his position as director of the Holburne Museum in Bath, where he has been since 2005, and has previously held various posts at the National Gallery in London.

He takes over from Professor Christopher Brown CBE, who has been the Ashmolean's director since 1998.

Dr Sturgis said: "I am thrilled to be appointed the next director of the Ashmolean.

"It is a huge honour to be given the chance to lead one of the country's great museums, however hard it will be to leave the Holburne after eight exceptionally happy and eventful years.

"I look forward to working with the Ashmolean team and Oxford University to build on all that has been achieved at the museum in recent years."

Oxford University's vice-chancellor Professor Andrew Hamilton said: "The museum has undergone a substantial transformation in recent years under the outstanding leadership of Christopher Brown.

"I am fully confident that Dr Sturgis will take forward with equal distinction the next stage of the Ashmolean's development."

Discovery a window to the past

SCIENTISTS at the University of Oxford have discovered a new fossil from the extinct species Megacheira, suggesting it is a distant ancestor of insects, arachnids and crustaceans, known as arthropods.

The Megacheira were marine-dwelling 'short great appendage' arthropods, that were defined by their claw-like front limbs.

By discovering this fossil in Herefordshire, university palaeobiologists believe it supports the notion that Megacheira came before the last common ancestor of all arthropods in the tree of life.

The fossil found recently has been named Enalikter aphson, measures 2.4cm, and has a rounded rectangular head, no eyes and a whip-like feature from the front of its mouth that may have been used in feeding.

Professor Derek Siveter, lead author of the study from the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and Department of Earth Sciences, was pleased with the find.

He said: "Enalikter aphson has a soft and flexible body so it is incredible that it survived.

"The nodule acted like a womb and kept the creature free from decay and destruction, which would normally have happened very quickly.

"It meant it was able to survive all the earth movements and history that have happened since."

"The fossil offers a rare window on the marine community back then."

Have your say on county's rights of way

OXFORDSHIRE County Council is asking the public for their views on rights of way in the county, to decide how to manage access to the countryside for visitors and residents over the next 10 years.

The council is consulting on their draft Rights of Way Management Plan, to ensure that public expectation is reflected and is balanced with the resources available.

Oxfordshire is home to 1,730 miles of footpath and 672 miles of bridleway, along with countless signs, stiles, bridges and culverts.

Cllr David Nimmo-Smith, cabinet member of environment, said: "Oxfordshire's countryside, urban and rural rights of way and landscape contribute to it being an outstanding place in which to live, work and visit.

"Access to these provides significant economic, health and well-being, and environmental benefits.

"County council finances are severely restricted and this is likely to continue over the life of this plan.

"Despite this we will aim to manage the public rights of way and countryside access network effectively and efficiently, working with communities, farmers, landowners, partner organisations, volunteers and users."

The plan is being emailed to town and parish councils across Oxfordshire, and a paper copy is available at County Hall in Oxford. For more information, go to www.oxfordshire.gov.up/rowip.

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'A city where people are not afraid to dream big'

A MAJOR initiative which aims to attract £400million in low carbon and renewable projects by 2020 has been unveiled across the county.

The OxFutures project, a partnership between the city and county council with the Low Carbon Hub, is calling local businesses, communities and investors into action.

According to experts, the idea is to position Oxfordshire at the forefront of low carbon innovation and spearhead the nation's transition to a sustainable energy future.

The project has already received a £1.2million grant from Intelligent Energy Europe while the rest of the money will come from organisations who want to put cash into their own scheme, while local communities can also invest.

Oxford Bus Company, with the help of the Low Carbon Hub, has installed solar panels on the roof of its Cowley office, while £320,000 was raised in 10 days for the Osney Lock hydro project.

Dr Barbara Hammond, CEO of the Low Carbon Hub, said: "The whole point of the project is that it puts money in to communities so they can work on energy projects.

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"The whole model is about getting people engaged in making a change.

"People will see that it is a positive change and not something that is scary or difficult or something that they don't want, because they are involved in making it happen."

The initiative is said to secure Oxford's target to reduce its carbon emissions by 40 per cent by 2020 and to reach the county council's target of a 50 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.

Cllr John Tanner, city council board member for a Cleaner, Greener Oxford, added: "It is inevitable that with higher energy costs that prices are not going to come down.

"But everybody, in order to make their living affordable so they can pay for their energy bills, needs to be energy efficient.

"The problem with fossil fuels is that once they have been burnt they are gone for good whereas with renewable energy it is here for my grandchildren and great grandchildren and will mean that our planet will continue to be liveable."

• *Dr Barbara Hammond, pictured at last week's OxFutures launch, is encouraging communities to invest in energy projects (Picture by Marc West)*

When asked why Oxford was seen as the future capital of renewable energy, Cllr Tanner said: "Because it is the city of dreaming spires where people are not afraid to dream big.

"We have got a lot of clever people here, we've got a lot of money, we've got an innovative and progressive population and I think that give us an advantage."

Damp, mouldy and covered in cockroaches

TWO landlords have been fined just over £3,000 each after they were found to be renting out an unlicensed House in Multiple Occupation.

Twelve people, including three children, were living in damp and mouldy conditions with a heavy cockroach infestation on a three bed maisonette in Blackbird Leys Road.

Oxford City Council officers also discovered no fire measures in place.

Landlords, Felix Valentim Da Conceicao and Ventura Valentim Da Conceicao, who also live in Blackbird Leys Road, pleaded guilty when they appeared at Oxford Magistrates Court.

They had not complied with Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation Regulations as there was inadequate fire protection and a lack of detection, disrepair throughout and the property was in poor decorative condition.

The court fined the men £3,050 each, including a total of £1,000 in costs and a £50 victim surcharge.

Cllr Ed Turner, deputy leader of Oxford City Council, said: "The council has a responsibility to help protect the vulnerable and ensure that people who are renting do not live in these conditions.

"The HMO scheme works to tackle this and the team are working hard to find those landlords who think they can evade the system."

News Bites

Rape charge

A 23-YEAR-OLD Headington man appeared at Oxford Crown Court last Friday after he was charged with the rape of a 19-year-old woman in the city.

The man, from Alden Crescent, allegedly raped the woman at a towpath near Hythe Bridge Street on January 19, and he has been remanded in custody until April 7.

A second man, aged 32, was also arrested in connection with the incident, and has been released on bail until March 24.

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Council grants £130k activity funding to areas of city

FUNDING which will enable young people in Oxford to enjoy holiday activities during Easter, summer and Christmas has been approved.

The city council is providing £130,000 of funding for the delivery of activities for eight to 19-year-olds in Barton, Wood Farm, Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys, Littlemore, Rose Hill, Cowley Marsh and East Oxford.

Qualified and experienced organisations and individuals can now submit applications for six weeks worth of activities.

To be eligible for the funding, applicants must provide activities for either one week during the Easter holidays, four weeks during the summer break, one week during the Christmas holidays or within one week of half-term periods.

Cllr Steve Curran, board member for Young People, Education and Community Development, said: "This funding will help provide good quality activities for young people in our city.

"Holiday activities are an essential part of the council's offer to young people and their families.

"At a time when young people often have time on their hands we are delighted to offer funding to allow them to take part in high quality pursuits."

Application forms can be found at www.oxford.gov.uk/grants and the closing date is February 21.

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Stay aware of the bogus tax return sites

OXFORDSHIRE County Council's Trading Standards team are warning people using websites to process tax returns to check that they are actually on official government sites.

It comes as 13 complaints have been made in Oxfordshire in the past fortnight about websites that can charge up to £800 on top of genuine government charges.

Many users do not realise a site is unofficial unless they get to the fees page, where charges quoted are often much higher than those on government sites.

Since October, 19 similar complaints have also been made to Trading Standards about driving license application sites, and a further 15 about ones that deal with passport applications.

Kate Davies, team leader for Trading Standards' Public Protection Team, said: "We want to educate and warn the public about websites which look to charge far more than the official government sites do.

"Now is a time of year when many residents are submitting tax returns, and they could be easily duped into parting with more money than they have to by using these sites."

Cllr - Where are the lights for our park?

AN OXFORD City Councillor has vented his frustration that lights have still not been installed at the Marston Recreation Ground, despite being approved in July last year.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Cllr Mick Haines, independent councillor for Marston, has been campaigning for the lights for a number of years, having delivered a petition on the subject to Downing Street in 2010.

But he has said that he is "very disappointed" that the lights are still not in place.

"It's absolutely ridiculous," said Cllr Haines. "I feel sorry for all the people who want to use this recreation ground, go to work in the mornings and come back at night, and the kiddies playing.

"I expected the lights in well before now. There are excuses and excuses and still we're no further forward.

"People keep saying to me 'when are we going to get the lights?', and I can only say I'm trying the best I can, but I think it's thoroughly disgusting that we've waited this long for it."

Cllr Mary Clarkson, who also represents Marston on the city council, shared Cllr Haines' concerns.

However, she also pointed out the council were faced with 'various complications' with the installation.

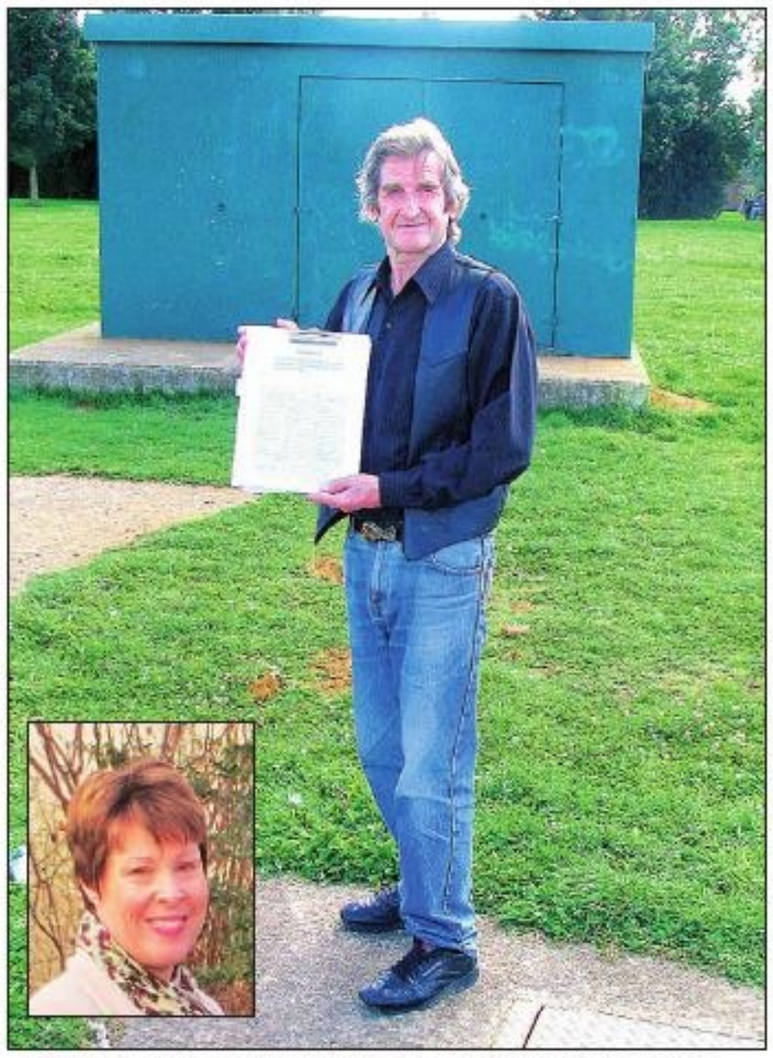
She said: "I've spoken to the officer responsible for the lighting and he is currently waiting for some design details before placing the order for the lights.

"There have been various complications over the lights. Firstly, some Purcell Road residents were unhappy about having any lighting at the back of their properties.

"Secondly, some of the Stainer Place residents, whose homes back on to the recreational ground, were worried about light pollution.

"A scheme is being developed which will both reassure them and provide enough light for the safety of cyclists and pedestrians in the park.

"It is frustrating and regrettable but equally it is essential to get a design which meets the needs of residents, pedestrians and cyclists."



• *Cllr Mick Haines petitioning for the lights in 2012. Inset, Cllr Mary Clarkson*

Duo arrested after 'proactive' drug operation

TWO men have been arrested on drugs charges following what police are calling a 'proactive' operation in Oxford last Thursday.

Officers from the city centre neighbourhood policing team conducted patrols across the Friars Wharf Estate, specifically targeting drug dealers.

An 18-year-old and 19-year-old were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply cannabis, and released on bail until March 31.

PC Gareth Herniman said: "We were tasked with disrupting and deterring recent drug activity in the area.

"The team made two arrests and seized a large amount of class B drugs."

Neighbourhood inspector Andy Thompson added: "Members of the community should not have to suffer the effects of drugs in the area, as the individuals concerned in the use and supply can be linked to other types of criminality.

"We are committed to tackling any reports of drug activity and will focus our attention on those who are linked to such reports.

"I would always encourage members of the community who have information about any crime to call 101."

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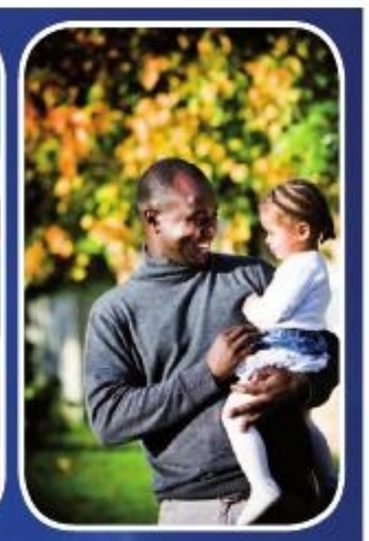

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Oxford 'in lower section for swimming'

LESS than seven per cent of people swim once a week in Oxford, according to a new league table published by Diabetes UK.

The figure puts the city in the bottom quarter out of 221 local authorities nationally, and last in Oxfordshire.

Diabetes UK has published the table to launch its Swim 22 challenge, where participants swim 22 miles at their local pool between February 22 and May 22.

Jill Steaton, South East regional manager for the charity, said: "Swimming is a great way to keep physically active, which is really important for preventing Type 2 diabetes or helping to manage diabetes if you already have it.

"For areas lower down the table this doesn't have to be bad news. We want these results to challenge everyone in the area to make a splash in their local pool and give swimming a go.

"Swim 22 can be the spur you need to take up swimming up and to challenge yourself to get fitter.

"Also, because you can do the 22 miles over three months, you can gradually build up your fitness and hopefully make swimming regularly a habit you end up sticking to."

MP checks up on Mobile Homes Act

OXFORD East MP Andrew Smith visited a residential park in the city last week, to find out about the impact that the newly passed Mobile Homes Act 2013 will have on residents.

Along with Oxford City councillor Mary Clarkson, Mr Smith visited St Nicholas Park in Old Marston where 50 homes are owned by people in or near retirement.

The act came into force last year, and is designed to give park residents extra safeguards from a small number of rogue operators.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"Mobile home parks make an important contribution to available accommodation in Oxfordshire," said Mr Smith.

"It was also a pleasure to meet some of the residents, and I will always be pleased to help any park home occupier in my constituency who needs more information about how changes in the law affect them."

The visit was arranged by Katy Buswell, whose family owns four residential parks in the Oxford area.

She believes that the legislation has come at an appropriate time as demand for park homes in the city is growing, and that residents should be able to buy such properties with long-term of peace of mind.

Ms Buswell said: "What we are offering is a semi-sheltered environment where residents live among people of a similar age and background – and which is, above all, affordable.

"There is a positive community atmosphere on our parks and a strong sense of neighbourliness, which many mature couples say is missing from modern urban living."

• *Katy Buswell and Andrew Smith MP discuss the Mobile Homes Act*

She also acknowledged that a few park operators do not meet the high standards of management and care that is shown by most business owners.

At the moment there are approximately 200,000 people across the UK who live in residential parks, and the new act provides powers to prosecute owners who harass residents.

The visit comes after Henley MP John Howell made a similar visit to Wick Farm Park in Headington, also owned by Ms Buswell, to discuss the act earlier this month.

News Bites

Drug charges

TWO people have been charged with drugs offences, after they were arrested at a property in Wynbush Road, Oxford, last week.

A 36-year-old man was charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs and possessing criminal property, relating to £55,000 in cash, and is scheduled to appear at Oxford Crown Court on February 11.

A woman, 34, was also charged with possessing criminal property and has been bailed to appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on Tuesday.

Cops persevere with indecent exposure appeal

• *Do you know him?*

CCTV images of a man who may be able to help with a police enquiry from 2011 have been re-released.

Thames Valley Police hope the man pictured can assist officers with regard to an indecent exposure in August 12, 2011.

At 5.15pm a man exposed himself to a female staff member in Simply Pleasure in Cowley Road before leaving the shop.

PC Paul Jones, from St Aldates police station, said: "We are appealing to members of the public to identify the man in the CCTV because he might be able to help us with our enquiries."

If you have any information contact PC Jones on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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News Bites

Online flooding help is at hand

A NEW online facility has been launched to outline steps to prevent properties from flooding.

River levels remain high across the county and vast areas of land are still saturated.

The Property Care Association has put together the new facility which can be found at www.property-care.org.

New look shop

HEADINGTON'S Cancer Research UK shop re-opened this week after it was given a makeover.

The shop now has a new layout, allowing for more stock, while new community boards have been introduced.

Shop Manager Jerry Pendleton said: "The team is delighted with the changes that have been made and we hope the people of Oxford will continue to support the shop as they have done so fantastically in the past."

Man is charged after van damage

A MAN has been charged with criminal damage after scratching a police van in Cornmarket Street.

The 23-year-old from Aylesbury was charged on January 18 after he was seen on CCTV damaging the vehicle using a sharp object.

He was also charged with possession of cannabis and will appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on February 3.

Number of road deaths 'lowest for 40 years'

THE number of deaths on our roads is at its lowest for 40 years, Thames Valley Police has confirmed.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

However, the force is adamant it will not be complacent in ensuring the roads are a safe place to be.

A total of 57 people died on the region's road network in 55 fatal collisions during 2013, a decrease of more than 25 per cent from 78 fatal collisions in 2012.

Seventeen of the 57 people who died last year were involved in collisions in Oxfordshire.

Chief Inspector Henry Parsons, head of Thames Valley Police Joint Operations Unit for Roads Policing, said: "There are many factors which may have contributed to the reduction in fatal road traffic collisions.

"Our officers conduct targeted enforcement to both educate and, where appropriate, prosecute offenders.

"Research shows that through targeting key offences such as speed, mobile phone use, not wearing a seatbelt and drink/drug driving, we can make the roads a safer place for everyone who uses them.

"We also run a number of campaigns such as Bike Safe and Safe Drive Stay Alive, which are having an impact together with the work we conduct with our partner agencies."

Ch Insp Parsons added: "Our officers will continue to carry out this work 24/7 to continue to reduce the factors which contribute to collisions. Too many people continue to die on the roads despite every effort and every one of these figures is a person who has died on the road network and who has not returned home to their loved ones."

Meanwhile, according to figures released by the Office for National Statistics, crime has also fallen in the region.

A total of 131,492 offences were recorded across the Thames Valley between September 2012 and 2013, a reduction of 4.2 per cent compared to the previous year.

The biggest reduction in the Thames Valley was seen in robbery offences, which decreased by 27.7 per cent.

Chief Constable Sara Thornton said: "We will continue to work towards cutting crime across the three counties over the next 12 months."

Incoming sports shop set to create 30 jobs

OXFORD will soon be home to a new sports store, creating 30 new jobs.

Decathlon, who first opened a shop in France in 1977, are moving in to a new store at Seacourt Tower Retail Park.

It will open its doors to the public on May 1.

The company's mission is to make sport accessible to all through the provision of high quality goods at affordable prices.

Steve Dykes, Decathlon UK managing director, said: "We're keen to make a real contribution to the community, offering new opportunities for residents, students, families, schools and workers to get involved in sport."

The store will also offer showrooms for cycling, camping and fitness, and will be positioned next to Homebase at the retail park.

Store manager Michael McHale added: "We're currently recruiting for a number of roles at the new store, from managerial posts to sales assistants, both full and part time.

"I encourage anybody with a passion for sport and a healthy lifestyle to get in touch."

Visit www.decathlon.co.uk for more details.

• Store manager Michael McHale with operations manager Luke Glackin

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We will see how this goes!

Tac-au-Tac

OXFORD-BASED troupe Tac-au-Tac Dance showcase their new work from over the past year, with performances at the Pegasus Theatre on Saturday and Sunday.

Entitled 'The Storm', the show looks at what it would be like to witness a storm arrive, be trapped in it and then the aftermath after it has gone.

Performances take place at 4pm and 7.30pm on Saturday, and at 4pm on Sunday. For booking details, call 01865 812150 or go to www.pegasustheatre.org.uk.

Dan Le Sac

DAN Le Sac vs Scroobius Pip come to the O2 Academy this evening, as they prepare for the release of their debut album 'Repent Replenish Repeat'.

The show promises a combination of poetry, electro beats and an amalgam of genres ranging from punk to Motown. Go to www.o2academyoxford.co.uk for more details.

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By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

GLASGOW alternative rock band Del Amitri come to Oxford on Wednesday, performing a range of their music from the last 30 years since the band's formation.

They were formed in 1983 by singer-songwriter Justin Currie and guitarist Iain Harvie, and have released four top-10 albums and numerous hit singles.

The three albums 'Waking Hours' (1989), 'Change Everything' (1992) and 'Twisted' (1995) were re-released on January 20, ready for their latest tour over the next couple of weeks.

Iain said: "We're going to play a selection of songs, and we'll try and start very early from late 1982 when we were young.

"There are one or two songs we are going to try in rehearsals, so we should be able to play something from all of the five albums."

It has been several years since Del Amitri last performed as a group, and both Justin and Iain have been concentrating on their solo work.

• *Iain Harvie (left) and Justin Currie perform at the New Theatre on Wednesday*

While they have no plans as yet for a new album, it's not something that the group have ruled out.

Iain said: "We don't plan at the moment to record a new album, but it might be something we do in the future. We'll see how this goes.

"For now we're just making sure we can play all these songs properly! We've got about 60 songs to learn."

Iain is currently living in Oxford, where he has been for the last five years, and is looking forward to playing in the city.

"It's my home-town for the moment," Iain added. "Glasgow's my home-town and that's going to be a big show, but there'll be a whole set of people in Oxford that know me, probably in a different capacity!"

Wednesday's show takes place at the New Theatre, and starts off at 7pm. To book, go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk or phone 0844 871 3020.

A bit Simon Jay?

THE unique one-man play Is He a Bit Simon Jay? comes to the Old Fire Station on Saturday, bringing together character comedy and narrative drama for the show.

It tells the tragic tale of Simon Reuben Jay, from his birth in 1931 to his death last year, told from the perspectives of dozens of people he met along the way.

Tickets cost £9, and the show begins at 7.30pm. Go to www.oldfirestation.org.uk or call 01865 263980 to book.

Alan Ayckbourn

PLAYWRIGHT Alan Ayckbourn comes to the Oxford Playhouse tomorrow, for a talk about his work that has been performed at venues around the world.

It is followed from Monday by the Ayckbourn Ensemble, featuring performances of his new play 'Arrivals and Departures', as well as 'Time of My Life' and 'Farcicals'.

More details about the talk or any of the plays can be found at www.oxfordplayhouse.com, or phone the box office on 01865 305305.

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30 years of winter touring

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

FOLK rock favourites Fairport Convention are back in Oxford on Tuesday, as they celebrate their 30th consecutive winter tour by visiting 31 venues across the UK.

The winter tours in their current format began in 1985, and features the line-up of Simon Nicol, Dave Pegg, Ric Sanders, Chris Leslie and Gerry Conway.

Fairport Convention was formed back in 1967, and continue to attract big audiences through touring and their annual Cropredy Festival in North Oxfordshire.

"We're really looking forward to going on the road again," said Simon. "This will be our 30th winter tour in its present guise.

"A few of the venues are new to us but most are places we've been back to frequently; in fact, we've played a couple of them 29 times!

"The band started out in 1967 so our next big anniversary will be Fairport's Golden Jubilee in 2017.

• *Fairport Convention celebrate 30 years of touring at St John the Evangelist Church on Tuesday*

"But even after nearly 50 years on the road, we still look forward to playing in front of audiences.

"Although we regularly record new albums, our first love will always be live performance."

In the latest tour, Fairport will be performing songs from their extensive back catalogue, as well as music from the latest album 'By Popular Request'.

There will also be some brand new material from previously unperformed songs, in preparation for the band's next studio album.

The concerts will also open with a short solo set from singer-songwriter Edwina Hayes, who has worked with Jools Holland, Nanci Griffith and Roger McGuinn in the past, as well as many others.

Tuesday's performance at St John the Evangelist Church is scheduled to start at 7.30pm, and tickets cost £20.

For more information and booking details, phone the box office on 01865 613502 or go to www.sje-oxford.org.

Shappi in town

POPULAR comic Shappi Khorsandi returns to the county with a performance at Banbury's Mill Arts Centre tomorrow night, after previously starring in Oxford in November.

She is best known for her television work on shows including 'Have I Got News For You' and 'Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow', but is highly regarded for her stand-up gigs as well.

Tickets cost £14 and the show starts at 8pm. To book, call 01295 297002 or go to www.themillartscentre.co.uk.

On the case

DIDCOT'S Cornerstone arts centre is host to Suitcase Stories, a children's show about a suitcase and all the tales it can tell from its journeys around the world, on Sunday afternoon.

The multi-sensory production uses music, projection, installation and puppetry to tell the story, and is suitable for ages four to eight. Go to www.cornerstone-arts.org for more information.

Son Yambu

CUBAN music specialists Son Yambu are in Chipping Norton on Saturday night, fusing Spanish and African rhythms that originated in the streets of eastern Cuba.

The group play authentic 'Son Cubano', and features a new generation of Cuban musicians that are passionate about maintaining the genre.

It starts at 7.45pm, and tickets cost £14. Go to www.chippingnortontheatre.co.uk.

Tony Stockwell

PSYCHIC medium Tony Stockwell comes to Henley's Kenton Theatre this evening, as he demonstrates his belief that those who have passed can communicate with friends and family.

Tony has been working as a medium for 20 years, and has appeared on countless television programmes and set up his own training school for developing mediums.

Tonight's show starts at 7.30pm, and tickets cost £19. For more information, go to www.kentontheatre.co.uk.

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Comedy nights are now the last FRIDAY of every month
Stefano Paolini was runner-up in Channel 4's So You Think You're Funny award in 2001 and in BBC's New Comedy Award in 2002, the impressionist and beat boxer is now a regular on the UK comedy circuit.
On TV he featured regularly on The Ralph Little Show (BBC Choice) and voiced a variety of personalities including, Tony Blair, on Double Take (BBC 2)
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Bob Mills is a true elder statesman of British stand-up comedy. The man who bridged the gap between the first wave of "alternative comedy" in the mid-eighties and the new laddism of the early '90s, star Bob Mills is as popular today as when he first strolled on to the comedy circuit in 1985. Now approaching his silver jubilee as a stand-up comic, Bob is one of the most recognisable and respected comedians in the business. On radio Bob has presented his own shows on BBC London and he still regularly covers for Danny Baker. He's also a popular guest on 'Fighting Talk' (BBC Radio 5) & Loose Ends (BBC Radio 4).
Please bear in mind that this show will contain strong language and adult humour
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St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX"
www.oxfordinternationalartfair.com

8 February, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
CREDIBLE LIKEABLE SUPERSTAR ROLE MODEL
In an audacious, provocative protest against flagrant global attempts to sexualise and commodify childhood for profit, award-winning artist Bryony Kimmings and her niece Taylor, nine, decided to play the global tween machine at its own game by inventing dinosaur-loving, bike riding, tuna pasta-eating, alternative pop star Catherine Bennett.
Tickets: ¬£13, ¬£11 concessions
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

8 February, 7pm
Corn Exchange Wallingford
DIGITAL SHOWING OF TOP GUN
"A fund-raiser for the Cholsey Treehouse School.
Tickets ¬£7.50 each"
01491 825000

9 February, 7:30pm
Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon
CASA MARGARITA PRESENTS MARGARITA AND THE HOUSE OF LOVE
"Lighten a deep winter's night with this fabulous night of Spanish music and stories from an old house in Seville. Theamazing music of Granados, Lorca and de Falla embroidered into passionate tales of love - all ready for Valentine's Day.
Phone: 0773 344 8279
Email: margarita@casa-margarita.co.uk
More information: http://www.casa-margarita.co.uk
http://www.abingdonabbey-unicorn-theatre.org.uk/margarita.html
http://www.casa-margarita.co.uk

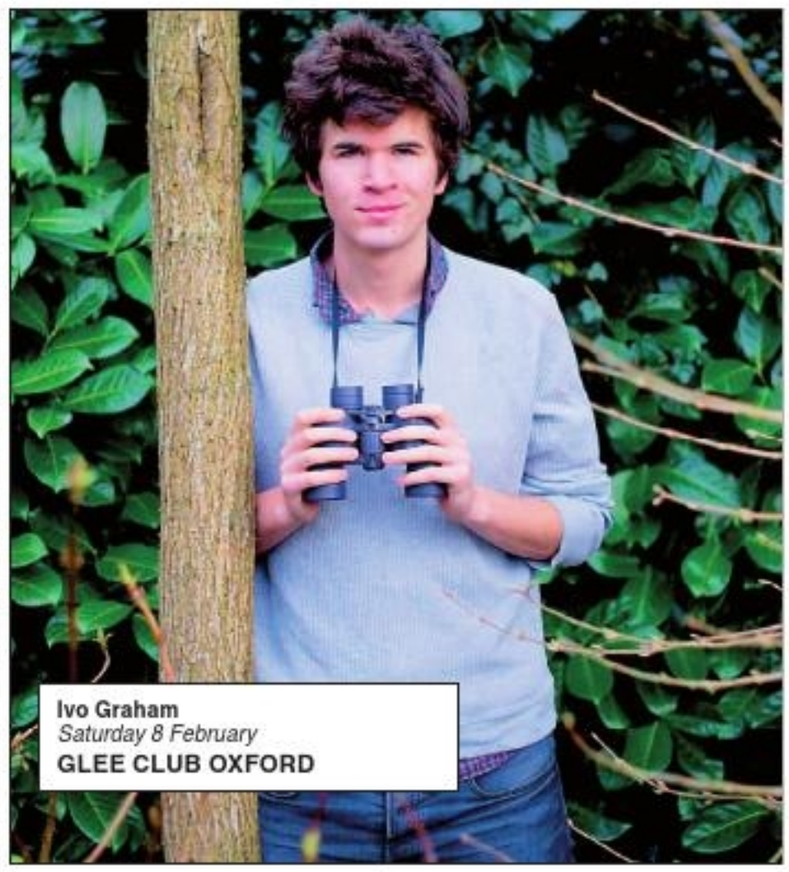
12 February, 7pm - 8pm
The North Wall, Oxford
A NOVEMBER DAY
"In forgotten boxes in an attic, a woman discovers the story of her grandfather, a survivor of the First World War, and his unexpected encounter with a stray dog who knew no boundaries.
With evocative puppet characters, live music and an ever-changing set, this is a timeless fable on war and the miracle of friendship when all else seems lost. "
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

13 February, 7pm - 8:30pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
ROBIN MICHAEL (CELLO) & DANIEL TONG (PIANO)
Michael & Tong perform Brahms cello sonatas
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

13 February - 14 February, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BALLAD OF THE BURNING STAR
"Armed with music, killer heels and a lethal troop of divas, an enraged Israeli executes a story of victimhood, persecution, aggression and love. With shrapnel-sharp voices and moves as smooth as an oiled tank-chain, this cabaret troop invites you on a journey into the core of a conflicted Jewish state.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

14 February, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
TALK: 'THE EAST OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT: BARTLEMAS LEPER HOSPITAL, LITTLEMORE PRIORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES EAST OF OXFORD'
by Jane Harrison. She will be talking about the discoveries made by the East Oxford Archaeology Project, and in particular about exciting excavations uncovering more about medieval Oxford, at St Bartholomew's Leper Hospital and the Priory of St Nicholas. Visitors (¬£3) are most welcome.

15 February, 10am - 12pm
Shotover Country Park, Oxford, OX3 8TD
TRY ORIENTEERING AT SHOTOVER COUNTRY PARK, OXFORD
"This is an exciting introduction to orienteering, organised by Thames Valley Orienteering Club, and is aimed at newcomers, families and runners of all ages and abilities. There will be longer courses for runners as well as shorter courses for families and children. You can run, jog or walk at your own pace. If you haven,Âôt tried orienteering before, we,Âôll help you get started. Just don,Âôt forget your sense of adventure!
You,ll receive a special orienteering map showing your chosen course which will consist of a series of control points. The challenge is choosing your route between each one. At each point in the park, you,Âôll find a marker flag and an electronic unit to register your progress around the course, using the small electronic chip we will lend you.
Come along any time between 10am and 11.30am and give it a go. Just wear what you would for a run or walk. For more info visit our website at www.tvoc.org.uk, see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/tvoclub or email us: publicity@tvoc.org.uk"
www.tvoc.org.uk/saturdayseries



Ivo Graham
Saturday 8 February
GLEE CLUB OXFORD

15 February - 16 February, 10am - 5pm
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
SNOWDROP WEEKEND
With more than 30 different snowdrop varieties carpeting the ornamental gardens and a spectacular snowdrop valley area, there,Âôs no better place to enjoy these little heralds of spring in such a magical setting. Don,Âôt miss free guided tours at 11am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm each day of our special snowdrop weekends (Garden entrance fee applies).
www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

15 February, 8pm
Cornerstone, Didcot
CARA DILLON
Tickets ¬£19/¬£17 conc.
01235 515144 www.cornerstone-arts.org

19 February - 20 February
Cornerstone, Didcot
OMID DJALILI LIVE
01235 515 144

19 February - 20 February
Cornerstone, Didcot
OMID DJALILI
Omid will be performing his new fully-formed show to celebrate coming back on to the touring circuit
01235 515 144. www.cornerstone-arts.org

21 February, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
22 February - 23 February, 10am - 5pm
WATERPERRY GARDENS, NR WHEATLEY
Snowdrop Weekend

22 February, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
"¬£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/255751

20.45 Beard Of Destiny
21.30 The Lucky Club
22.15 The Heavy Dexters"

22 February
The Anvil
ANTON DU BEKE BALLROOM TO BROADWAY
"3pm and 7.45pm
Featuring memorable dances alongside sensational new choreography, timeless tunes and strictly dazzling costumes to conjure up the elegance of ballroom at its best and the unmissable razzle dazzle of Broadway."
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

22 February, 8pm
The Forge
KRIS DREVER AND √AMONN COYNE
"Kris Drever's voice and guitar forms part of the backbone of today's contemporary roots scene. Widely admired as a solo artist, collaborator, and member of folk supergroup Lau, he is a phenomenal and prolific artist.

For this tour he is joined by regular collaborator the talented √âamonn Coyne (Treacherous Orchestra, Salsa Celtica) on banjo and tenor guitar."
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

25 February - 26 February, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BRAND NEW ANCIENTS
Poet and spoken word artist Kate Tempest tells an everyday epic over an exhilarating live score played by tuba, cello, violin, drums and electronics, that finds the gods of today all around us and reveals that our true heroes are much closer than we think.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

28 February, 8pm - 8pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
MAHAN ESFAHANI (HARPSICHORD)
Spanning four centuries, this evening,Âôs programme by Esfahani covers the gamut of the harpsichord repertoire.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

1 March, 11am - 12pm
The North Wall, Oxford
GRANDPA'S RAILWAY
Featuring a working model railway, live music and two very playful characters, Grandpa's Railway is a journey of discovery that explores the past, illuminates the present and lays new tracks for the future.
Tickets: ¬£7
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

1 March, 9am - 5pm
The Mix on Mill Street, Wantage
GIRLGUIDING TAKEOVER
"Find out what Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers do!
Have you considered helping?
Have a go at crafts
Look inside a tent
Share your memories of Guiding
Just come and visit to say hello!"

2 March
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: MOTHERING SUNDAY GIFTS
0777 1967633

8 March, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
FITZWILLIAM QUARTET
A wonderfully rich programme from the renowned Fitzwilliam Quartet.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

Oxford Journal Reader Travel

Imperial Cities

Departing Thursday 7 August 2014
From Gatwick airport

- Return flights from Gatwick airport†; outbound to Prague and return from Budapest
- Return airport-hotel-airport transfer
- Coach transfer from Prague to Vienna, and transfer by train from Vienna to Budapest
- 3 nights' stay at the 4 star Hotel Century Old Town, Prague with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Courtyard by Marriott, Vienna Messe with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Lion's Garden Hotel, Budapest with breakfast
- 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including a Folklore Show with dinner in Prague and a Dinner Cruise on the River Danube in Budapest
- All excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Admission to Prague Castle (including St Vitus' Cathedral and St George's Basilica); the Hofburg Imperial Palace and Schönbrunn Palace (Vienna); Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion and The Statue Park (Budapest)

Organised by Omega Holidays. ABTA V4782. ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability. †We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 30 December 2013 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 7 August 2014.

For more information or to book, please call:
01539 751252 quote OXJ
or visit: **www.oxfordjournal.reader.travel**

OPENING TIMES:
MON-FRI 8.30-19.30
SAT 8.45-15.30
SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Competitions

To enter this competition

Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to **competitions@oxfordjournal.co.uk**

Or on a postcard to Competitions, Oxford Journal, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

WIN a short break in Scenic Scotland

LOCHS & GLENS HOLIDAYS

Experience the magnificent sights of scenic Scotland with a short break to the beautiful rural village of Lochawe in Argyll and Bute, courtesy of Lochs & Glens coach holidays.

We have teamed up with the luxury coach tour operator to offer one lucky winner and their guest the chance to spend four nights of relaxation in the impressive Loch Awe Hotel.

Explore some of Scotland's most stunning locations with daily excursions to the Isle of Mull, Iona, Oban and Inveraray while enjoying breath-taking views of the shores of Loch Awe and towering slopes of Ben Cruachan.

Traditional Scottish cuisine and fantastic entertainment add to the package which has been created for travellers who want to see the best of scenic Scotland.

Closing date:

Friday, February 14

Operating luxury coach tours throughout Scotland since 1979, the family-run business prides itself on offering high quality tours of Scotland, attracting customers from across the UK who come back time and time again for the Lochs and Glens experience.

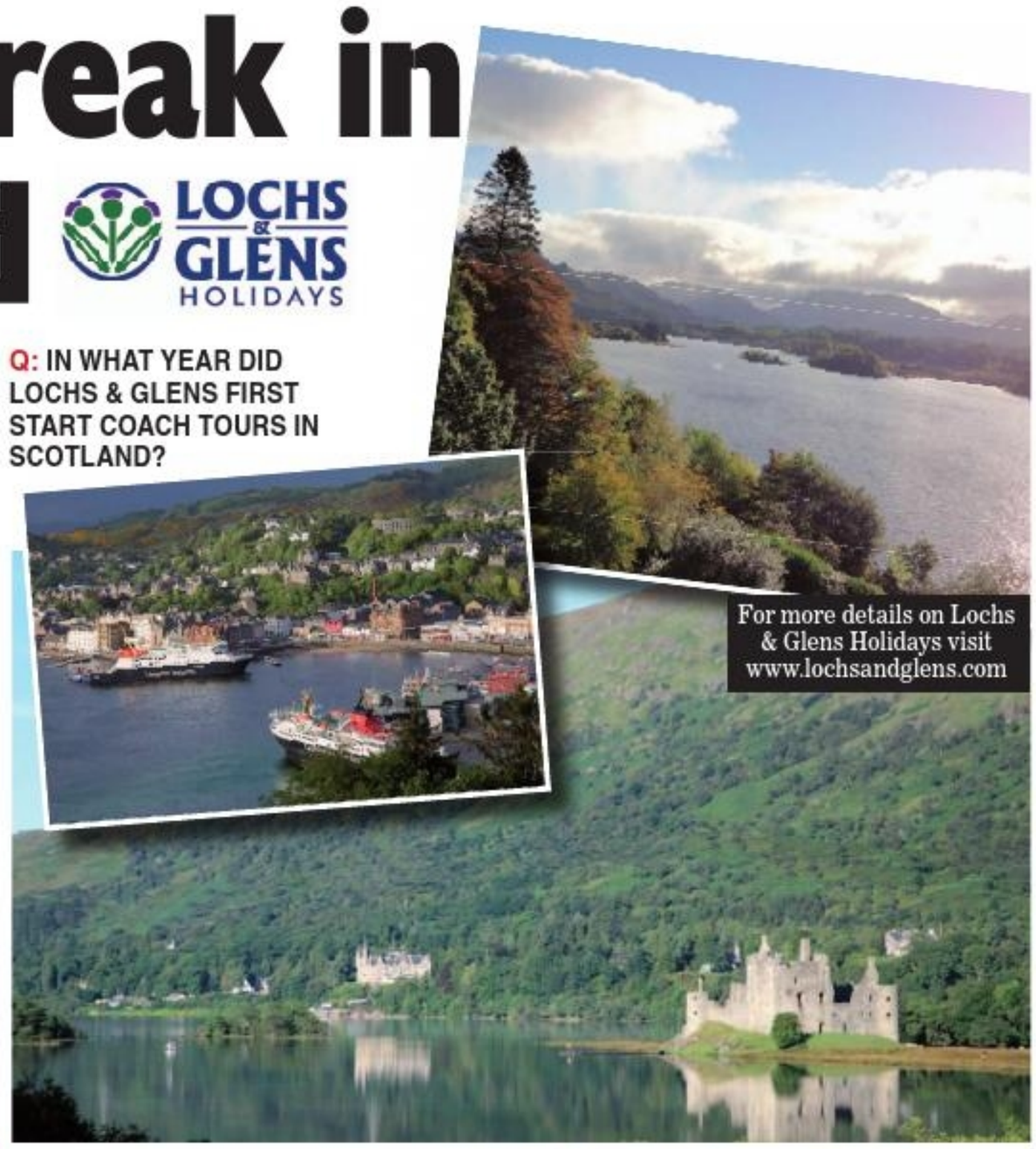
Exploring some of Scotland's most stunning locations, Lochs and Glens holidays offer a hassle-free approach, taking care of both travel and accommodation in one perfect package.

WIN A FOUR NIGHT HOLIDAY FOR TWO!

This fantastic prize gives you four nights half board accommodation at the Loch Awe Hotel. Also included is entertainment every night and an excursion every day including a visit to the Isles of Mull and Iona, Oban, entrance into Cruachan Power station and Inveraray.

To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer the following simple question:

Q: IN WHAT YEAR DID LOCHS & GLENS FIRST START COACH TOURS IN SCOTLAND?



For more details on Lochs & Glens Holidays visit www.lochsandglens.com

To enter more competitions like this, go online to

www.oxfordjournal.co.uk

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OxfordJournal

Reader Travel

London Theatre Breaks

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Choose a top West End show from our fabulous selection which includes Billy Elliot, Jersey Boys, Les Misérables, Mamma Mia!, Phantom of the Opera, Spamalot, The Lion King, War Horse, We Will Rock You, Wicked and more!

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2 days from £99.95pp

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- A **top priced** ticket for a Friday evening performance of the show of your choice from our fabulous selection
- Overnight stay at a choice 4 star London hotels with full English breakfast

Saturday Night London Theatre

2 days from £89.95pp

Offered most weekends until October 2014

- A ticket for a Saturday evening performance of the show of your choice from our fabulous selection
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SAT 8.45-15.30
SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Organised by Omega Events Ltd, ABTA Y5914. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability.

Puzzles

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

9				6	3			
2		8			1	3		
	6					7	4	1
	3			1	9		2	7
6			8		7			4
8	9		2	5			1	
4	5	9					6	
		3	4			5		8
			1	2				9

1				8				3
	7						6	
		6	9		5	1		
4	6		5		8		3	7
			3		7			
3	9		1		4		8	5
		2	4		9	3		
	4						9	
5				7				2

					3	6		1
				1		2		
						4	9	
	6				9		1	2
9			6		8			5
2	7		4				3	
	5	9						
		4		7				
6		7	8					

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

4 Photographer's apparatus (6)
8 Claws (7)
10 Sinews (7)
11 Disturb (5)
12 Bottles (5)
13 Scent (9)
16 Helper (9)
19 Equipment (5)
20 Gum (5)
22 Sinister (7)
23 Paying attention (7)
24 Most vile (6)

Quick Clues Down

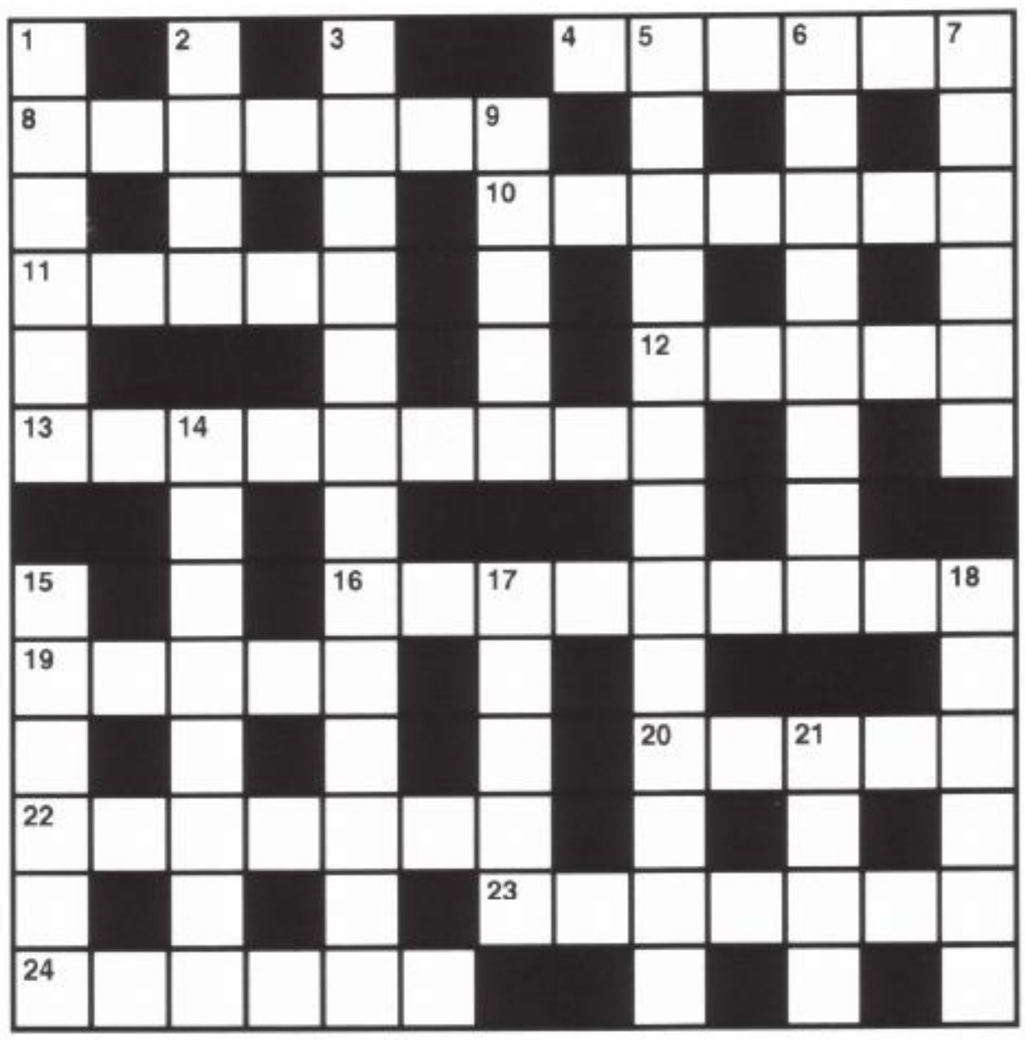
1 Overwhelm (6)
2 Watering places (4)
3 Disturbances (13)
5 Annual commemorations (13)
6 Extreme selfishness (8)
7 Estimate (6)
9 Back (5)
14 Water sports (8)
15 Selfpossession (6)
17 Rip (5)
18 Muddle (6)
21 Nonalcoholic (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

4 Investigated professional plot (6)
8 Stayed the course and finished round the old city (7)
10 Knowledgeable after the finish that's the position (7)
11 It's no joke getting behind at sea (5)
12 Mr Wood, senior, we presume? (5)
13 Getting a rise? (9)
16 Was Robin Hood so bandy, then? (36)
19 What's the wild dog doing? (5)
20 Where one is expected to take steps (5)
22 Classical welcome to the right communist is declared (7)
23 Stumped on the golfcourse (7)
24 Unruly sets I'd stop (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Praise about a former country (6)
2 Lied about being out of work (4)
3 They provide a firm basis for pressing matters (7,6)
5 Holidays somehow delayed RollsRoyce test (36,4)
6 Fifty in the band are dazzling (8)
7 Dry out the organ dull (6)
9 She could be an ideal girl (5)
14 Risks about a pound in church (8)
15 He somehow drew with the District Attorney (6)
17 Presumably *you* don't mind if they are cross (5)
18 Is in awe of many mad dares (6)
21 It can take a hammering (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

8	3	7	4	6	5	9	2	1
1	5	6	2	3	9	7	4	8
9	2	4	7	1	8	3	5	6
2	4	1	6	8	3	5	9	7
3	9	8	5	7	2	1	6	4
6	7	5	1	9	4	8	3	2
4	1	2	3	5	7	6	8	9
7	8	3	9	4	6	2	1	5
5	6	9	8	2	1	4	7	3

1	4	9	8	2	3	6	5	7
6	5	7	1	4	9	8	2	3
8	2	3	6	5	7	1	4	9
4	9	8	2	3	6	5	7	1
2	3	6	5	7	1	4	9	8
5	7	1	4	9	8	2	3	6
3	6	5	7	1	4	9	8	2
9	8	2	3	6	5	7	1	4
7	1	4	9	8	2	3	6	5

7	9	6	3	5	4	2	8	1
5	8	4	7	1	2	6	3	9
3	2	1	9	6	8	7	4	5
4	1	8	2	9	6	5	7	3
2	5	3	4	8	7	1	9	6
9	6	7	1	3	5	4	2	8
1	7	5	8	2	9	3	6	4
6	4	9	5	7	3	8	1	2
8	3	2	6	4	1	9	5	7

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Occupations 9 Peg 10 Introduce 11 Class 13 Scarabs 14 Argosy 16 Beggar 18 Imagine 19 Reach 20 Trampling 21 Map 22 Celebrating

Down: 2 Cog 3 Units 4 Attest 5 Iron age 6 Neuralgia 7 Specialists 8 Censorships 12 Aggravate 15 Stipple 17 Senior 19 Right 21 Men

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Paper-hanger 9 Rum 10 Centipede 11 Impel 13 Sponges 14 Ghosts16 Veneer 18 Harries 19 Ounce 20 Machinate 21 Oat 22 Asseverates

Down: 2 Aim 3 Excel 4 Honest 5 Noisome 6 Evergreen 7 Crying shame 8 Sea-serpents 12 Protracts 15 Thin ice 17 Estate 19 Opera 21 Ore

PAULINE & ROY at
Come and watch BT Sports at the Railway Inn

THE RAILWAY INN

Events in February
Friday nights are now our MUSIC NIGHTS
Friday 28th February -
The Shakedown Prophets
Saturday nights are now FOODIES NIGHTS!
Check the website: www.railwayinnculham.co.uk for live music events!

Steaks and full English menu every day
12 - 2.30pm & 6-9pm
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Three Star Bed & Breakfast Accommodation
Parties and functions catered for
THE RAILWAY INN, STATION ROAD, CULHAM
Tel: 01235 528046
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www.railwayinnculham.co.uk

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Or on a postcard to Competitions, Oxford Journal, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

WIN tickets to the London Bike Show

The UK's largest cycling exhibition, The London Bike Show – Driven by SEAT, returns to ExCeL London from 13 – 16 February 2014, bringing along everything you need from the world of cycling.

After a packed 2013 show, it's back, bigger and better than ever before and we've teamed up with The London Bike Show to offer 5 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show. For those looking for their dream bike or beginners wanting to make their first purchase, make your way to the RCUK Cycling Test Track where some of the biggest bike brands will be showcasing their bikes. Once you've found your perfect bike, the experts in the BikeRadar Training Hub will be on hand with tests and consultations designed to help your performance (separate tickets required). The Animal WD-40 Sports Tour returns with the display team showing off their skills on and off their bikes. There will be demos each day mixing incredible skill, control and balance with some spectacular aerial action from athletes including Pro Mountain Biker Blake Samson. For the chance to hear from the greats of the cycling world, head to The Cycling Performance Theatre where experts will be sharing their experiences. Olympic cycling legend Sir Chris Hoy will be taking part in a Q&A in the Theatre as well as showcasing his bike range at the show and the Total Women's Cycling Awards ceremony will take place in the Theatre too. The London Bike Show will once again run alongside The Telegraph Outdoor and Adventure Travel Show and a new show, the Triathlon Plus Show. A ticket for one show allows visitors access into all three shows where there will be lots more to see and do, creating an entertaining, affordable day out for all visitors. For more information, visit: http://www.thelondonbikeshow.co.uk

Closing date:

Friday, February 7

We have 5 pairs of tickets to be won and all you have to do to be in with a chance of winning one is answer the following simple question:

Q: WHO WAS THE FIRST ENGLISHMAN TO WIN THE TOUR DE FRANCE?

• *Pump Track action from last year's show.*

To enter more competitions like this, go online to
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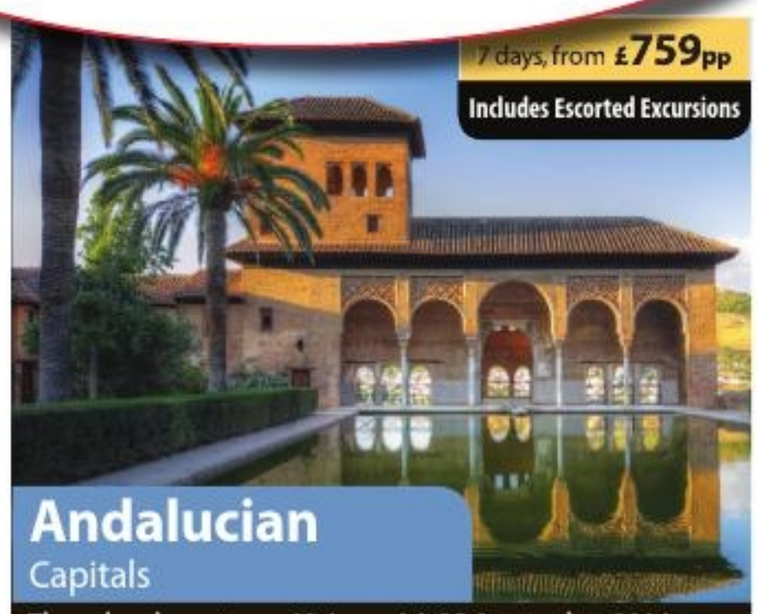
Oxford Journal Reader Travel



7 days, from £759pp
Includes Escorted Excursions

Andalucian Capitals

Thursday departures, 12 June, 4 & 25 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalucia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

- Return flight from Birmingham airport to Malaga†
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 6 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera with dinner & breakfast
- A guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
- Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife in Granada
- Includes 3 excursions; to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

† We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 25 September 2014.

8 days, from £689pp
Includes Escorted Excursions

Barcelona and Catalonia

Departing Wednesday 14 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

From Gothic to Gaudi, the ramblas to the champlas, in Barcelona there is artistry on every street corner. We'll take you to Montserrat and the Black Madonna, Figueres and the Dali Museum, La Garriotxa with its volcanic gorges, and eleventh century Besalú with its Jewish quarter. All this, and you've still got time to stroll on the beach at Calella on the Costa Brava, visit a wine cava, and the markets at La Boqueria, or just relax in 4-star style.

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Barcelona††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay in 4 star Hotel Les Palmeres, Calella with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 3 full day excursions; to Barcelona including guided walking tour of the old town, Montserrat and Figueres with admission to the Dali Museum

†† We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.

6 days, from £689pp
Includes Escorted Excursions

Madrid, Toledo and Segovia

Departing Thursday 15 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

Discover a warm welcome in magnificent Madrid with its wonderful collections of art, stunning architecture and impeccable parks and gardens. Add to the mix a feast of fine eateries and you have a holiday to remember!

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Madrid†††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 5 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Ganivet, Madrid,with breakfast
- Three buffet dinners
- Included panoramic coach tour and a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid
- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

††† We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.

For more information or to book, please call:
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SAT 8.45-15.30
SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Organised by Omega Holidays. ABTA Y4782. ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability. †Our prices include your flights for which we have allowed a reasonable budget. However, at your time of booking, should the cost of your flight exceed this budget, we reserve the right to charge a supplement, which we will advise you of at this time.

AutoWeekly
Keeping you motoring for over 30 years
Oxfordshire's BIGGEST motoring newspaper

New Mazda5 is quirky, but practical, and an engaging drive

All-in-one family solution

WITH its seven-seater versatility, and intelligent packaging, the Mazda5 has been engineered from the ground up to meet the demands of even the most active families.

Like its predecessor, launched in 2005, this second generation model competes with cars such as the Ford Grand C-Max, Citroën C4 Grand Picasso and Peugeot 5008.

Mini-van looks ensure that the Mazda5 stands out in the medium-sized MPV crowd and although it lacks the panache and class of some rivals, the

REVIEW: Mazda5

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

5's interior feels well-made. There's lots of adjustment for the seat and steering wheel, so drivers shouldn't struggle to get comfy either.

Equipment levels are generous and include six airbags, Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) with Traction Control System (TCS), two ISOFIX child seat anchor points, reversing camera, climate control, cruise control, TomTom satellite navigation and six-speaker audio system with USB port. This high-spec Venture also benefits from new sporty Black cloth trim with red stitching and an auto-dimming rear-view mirror.

The Mazda5's large twin sliding rear doors – a rare feature in this class - offer impressive access in even the tightest spaces and there's a 130mm foot step and low 439mm step-up into the cabin… perfect for school runs and family outings.

Inside the Mazda5 boasts impressive versatility, too – even though the accommodation is more six-and-a-half, rather than a full seven-seater - as the centre rear seat is only suitable for smaller children. However, the three rows create a wide range of passenger-luggage combinations. The 112-litre loadbay in seven-seat mode can be enlarged to 426-litres in five-seat configuration, while folding all five rear seats flat using Mazda's unique Karakuri seat-folding system creates a ceiling loadbay of 1485-litres (floor to roof).

The Mazda5 range is available with the choice of two engines: a 115ps 1.6-litre turbo diesel and a 2.0-litre petrol delivering 150ps - tested here.

Utilising the firm's 'i-stop' stop/start system allows this petrol engine to return a combined fuel economy of 40.9mpg with CO2 emissions of 159g/km – respectable enough given the size of vehicle, although some rivals are more frugal.

On-paper performance isn't anything to write home about with a 0-62mph time of 11 seconds and a 120mph top speed. But if the driver is willing to work the engine, they're rewarded with decent progress and a sporty soundtrack – which accompanied by impressive agility, good body control, direct steering and slick six-speed manual transmission – makes the Mazda5 surprisingly good fun to drive.

Refinement is perhaps one of the car's weaker areas, with that vocal engine and noticeable road and wind noise even at moderate speeds. However, comfort is good thanks to supportive seats and a pliant and settled ride.

Lots of windows make for good visibility and combined with the car's easy controls, results in the 5 being an absolute doddle to drive and park in towns and congested areas.

Verdict:

From some angles it looks a bit quirky, but the Mazda5 combines great all-round family practicality with a sharp and engaging drive.

Facts at a glance

Price: £19,995

0-62mph 11.0 seconds

Top speed: 120 mph

Power: 150PS @6200 rpm

Torque: 191Nm @ 4500 rpm

Claimed economy: 40.9 mpg (combined)

CO2 159g/km

Insurance group: 16E

• *The new Mazda5*

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range: urban 25.4-56.5 (11.1-5), extra urban 45.6-76.3 (6.2-3.7), combined 35.3-67.3 (8-4.2). Official CO2 188-110g/km. Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Models shown: Mazda 2 SE Air-con, On the road price: £10,995. Mazda MX-5 Soft top SE 1.8 Petrol, On the road price: £18,495. Mazda 5 Venture 2.0 150PS Petrol On the road price: £19,994. Retail sales only, subject to vehicle availability for vehicles registered between 02.01.14 and 31.03.14 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *0% finance available on Mazda 5, MX-5, Mazda 2 with no minimum deposit on Mazda Personal Contract Purchase. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Finance subject to status. 18s or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European roadside assistance. Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified. Details correct at time of publication and may vary, e.g. if list price changes. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch B97 4DA. United Kingdom. Registration No. 3710700 VAT Registration No. GB927551006.

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CLARKE HEROICS SECURE U'S POINT

Top display by stopper as Lewis oversees Grecians draw

RYAN Clarke says he found Tuesday night's goalless draw at Exeter City as mentally one of the hardest games of his career.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

United returned to action just two days after Chris Wilder resigned from the club to join Northampton Town, with assistant manager Mickey Lewis in temporary charge.

A gutsy performance on a heavy pitch saw United come away with a hard-fought point, which lifted them up to fifth in the League Two table.

Clarke made a string of saves to ensure the U's kept their unbeaten league away record intact, but admitted that he found the circumstances tough.

"I found that the hardest game mentally in my career," said the 31-year-old.

"In terms of everything that has gone on, that doesn't mean anything against what has happened with Mickey and Mel (first team coach Andy Melville) coming in, but just the whole change in manager. It is the first time in my career that a manager has left the club when I have been playing regularly.

"But as professionals you first and foremost go out and make sure you do your job, and it was a good performance where our team spirit came together and we got a good point."

Wilder previously described Clarke as his best ever signing.

The United keeper added: "He brought me to the club and took a chance on me and I've not looked back since.

"I love playing for this club and of course naturally I'm gutted he's gone. But you just pick yourself up and go again."

Lewis has not ruled himself out of taking on the job permanently and was pleased with the spirit of his players on Tuesday night.

"I thought the lads showed great spirit," Lewis said.

"Looking at the league table, Exeter are 15th but I always feel they are one of the better teams in the league with some really good players. It is a tough place to come to and in the last four league games we have won two and drawn two so that's good in anyone's book."

United host AFC Wimbledon this Saturday but could be without Michael Raynes with a hip problem.

• Ryan Clarke, seen in action here against Northampton earlier this season, said the Exeter game was mentally the hardest of his career so far (Picture by Steve Daniels)

Wilder timeline

December 2008 - Named Oxford United manager.
May 2010 - A 3-1 win over York City in the Conference Play-Off final sees United promoted back to the Football League.
September 2010 - Signs a new three year deal.
May 2011 - United finish 12th in League Two in their first season back in the Football League for four years.
May 2012 - Oxford finish just four points adrift of the play-offs in a season which saw United do the double over rivals Swindon Town.
September 2012 - Paolo Di Canio's Swindon are beaten for a third time - a 1-0 win in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.
May 2013 - Oxford fall short of the play-offs again but Wilder agrees a new one-year contract.
December 2013 - Takes United to the top of League Two and is allowed permission to speak to Portsmouth.
January 2014 - Resigns as manager and takes over at Northampton Town.

Lenagan 'disappointed'

OXFORD United chairman Ian Lenagan says he is "disappointed" that Chris Wilder did not see out the season with the club.

United are currently fifth in League Two but after resigning last Sunday, Wilder was confirmed as the new Northampton Town boss on Monday.

The 46-year-old's last game in charge was Saturday's 1-0 home win over Torquay United.

After the match, Lenagan said he understood Wilder had told the players he was going and that he would not be back at Oxford.

The club confirmed last Sunday that the board had accepted Wilder's resignation.

Lenagan said: "First and foremost we thank Chris for five years of service at Oxford United.

"He has worked very hard and helped move the club from the Conference to becoming an established League Two side.

"We are grateful for his efforts on behalf of Oxford but disappointed that he chose not to continue to the end of this season's journey."

Lenagan confirmed that the club have begun a "thorough, professional search and interview process" for the next permanent manager.

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